Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—We must have some confidence in the reporting section also.

8. Nomination of members of village Panchayats.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I move that "*this Council requests the Government to abolish immediately the rules restricting the selection of members for nomination to the Village Panchayats.*" In speaking on this resolution also I have to bring to the attention of this Council a promise made by the Government but not yet fulfilled. It has become the practice of our Government in order to get allotments passed by this House to make promises and not to carry them out.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—So sweeping!

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Council Report, Volume 2 Part 20, Page 1693.

"President.—*So we are to change our view to satisfy the desire of the people. We have to modify these rules.*"

Sir, I understand that there are certain rules restricting nomination of members to Village Panchayats. This matter I brought to the attention of the Government several times, not once or twice. The Government used to promise we will consider we will consider and at last I succeeded to get an assurance from the Government that the rules will be modified and that was in 1101. Two years have passed, and I understand that nothing has been done in this matter. Because of the existence of this rule the depressed and the backward classes are almost entirely shut out of the Village Panchayats. It is a fact which we have to know that nowhere in India, neither in British Indian nor Indian States there exists any such restrictive rule for nomination. To fix a high property qualification for nominating members to Village Panchayat or Legislative Council is a thing quite unknown. We have here a more important Council than the Village Panchayat. There is no property qualification for nominating Members to this Council. The present restrictive rule is merely useful to exclude the depressed classes and the backward communities from the Village Panchayats.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No, no.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then what is its usefulness and purpose?

This matter should have been brought to the notice of the Government by the Protector of the Depressed Classes. I am sorry this matter did not receive his attention so far.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Can the Hon'ble Member give two or three instances where a member of the depressed classes was qualified and was not nominated where the man was competent?

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Mr. K. Ayyappan.—In Ollur.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I am sorry the Hon'ble Member who put that question has not fully understood what I mean. He has not read my resolution carefully and understood what I want. I want to remove the restrictions put on selecting members for nominating to Village Panchayats.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Very good. I understood. Thank you.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In the line of action which we are now following of elevating the depressed classes it is absolutely necessary that this restriction should be immediately cancelled.

Deputy President.—What are the restrictions ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There is a property qualification for nomination.

Deputy President.—I don't know what the restrictions are.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There is a property qualification.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—All qualifications of elected members apply to nominated members.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I beg to second the resolution.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Is it a Party resolution ?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Yes.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No more speeches, I suppose.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No.

Amendment.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Sir, I have to suggest an amendment. The amendment is to omit the word "abolish" and substitute "reduce", and to omit the words "the rules restricting ' and to substitute "qualifications for". The result will be the resolution will read thus: "*This Council requests the Government to reduce immediately the qualifications for the selection of members for nomination to Village Panchayats*". The opinion of the Party is that the present qualification of Rs. 25 is too much. Even for our Legislative Council election we want only Rs. 5.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There is no qualification for nomination.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—True; but for election purposes, for franchise, we have only a very limited qualification and even for Municipalities also, it is very low. Therefore, there is absolutely no reason why we must have such a high qualification of Rs. 25 for election to Panchayats. Much less is the justification of a high qualification for nomination when

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